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**04-14 For Immediate Release**

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### **Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest Plan Appeal Periods**

**Park Falls and Rhinelander, Wis. – August 20, 2004.** The Forest Service received at least 18 appeals to the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest's Land and Resource Management Plan. The appeals were submitted by a variety of interested parties with concerns about the level of timber harvest, ATV use, protecting the environment, and hunting opportunities.

Planning regulations provide ninety-days for people to appeal the final plan decision. The appeal period ended on August 12, 2004.

According to Forest Supervisor Anne Archie, the Forest Service expected appeals. "Public interest and involvement has been high throughout the plan revision process and we expected that level of participation to continue during the appeal process."

Archie said, "Managing natural resources on public lands is challenging business. Addressing the very diverse and often conflicting interests, while maintaining healthy forest ecosystems is a balancing act. The National Forest Management Act combines science and democracy so that people's interests and values are reflected in the way we manage these lands. While it is difficult to meet everyone's expectations, we believe this is a well-crafted, balanced plan."

The appeals are currently in the Washington office for review by the Chief of the Forest Service and will be acted upon at a future date.

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